

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Eighteenth Middlesex Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Eighteenth Middlesex Representative District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 3.0 % (3,672) reside in the Eighteenth Middlesex Representative District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (697) of Eighteenth Middlesex Representative District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 74.8% of admissions from the Eighteenth Middlesex Representative District were male and 25.1% were female.
- Over 64.9% of admissions were between the ages of 21-39.
- 69.2% of admissions were white non-Latino, 3.6% were black non-Latino, 21.1% were Latino, and 2% were Asian and 3.9% were other racial categories.
- 65.9% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 10.8% were married, and 15.3% reported not to be married now.
- 37.1% of admissions had less than high school education, 46.1% completed high school, and 16.7% had more than high school education.
- 24% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 22.3% of those admitted were homeless.
- 13.8% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

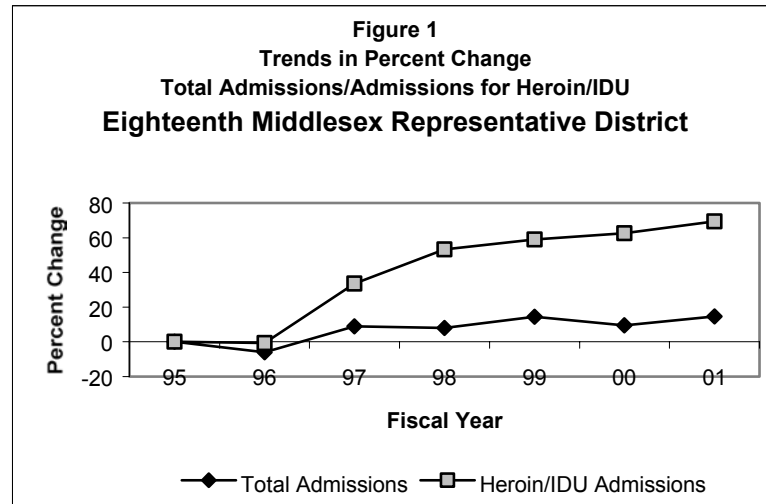
- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Eighteenth Middlesex Representative District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Eighteenth Middlesex Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	3,200	2,395	890	1,272	1,030	1,343	824
FY '96	3,007	2,363	838	1,083	847	1,296	858
FY '97	3,488	2,604	1,030	1,180	897	1,671	1,223
FY '98	3,457	2,422	947	1,105	656	1,945	1,375
FY '99	3,665	2,545	1,151	1,162	666	1,954	1,491
FY '00	3,505	2,348	998	1,118	535	1,968	1,554
FY '01	3,672	2,350	1,006	1,120	493	2,133	1,539

- Since FY 1995, residents of Eighteenth Middlesex Representative District reported a decrease in crack use, but a steady increase in heroin use. Crack use decreased by 52%, while heroin use increased by 58%.
- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, admissions reporting marijuana use increased by 13%, while alcohol use remained steady, and, cocaine use decreased by 12%.

Heroin and Injection Drug Use:

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the Eighteenth Middlesex Representative District and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV¹.



- Total treatment admission for all modalities rose 14.8% between FY 1995 and FY 2001. During the same period, admissions for heroin and injection drug use treatment increased by 69.5%.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Eighteenth Middlesex Representative District.

Table 2					
Primary Drug by District and State FY 2001					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	33.0%	53.6%	5.0%	3.4%	2.0%
State	46.4%	35.9%	6.5%	3.8%	3.4%

- While cocaine as a primary drug of use in your Representative District was level with the State average, heroin as a primary drug was higher, and, alcohol, marijuana and crack was lower within your District.

¹ The Schneider Institute for Health Policy, Brandeis University, 2000